

**Camptosorus rhizophyllus forma boycei C. L. Wilson**

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On 14 August 1934 Mr. Guy H. Boyce discovered a strikingly beautiful variation of *Camptosorus rhizophyllus* (L.) Link in the township of Highgate, Vermont, which was named forma *Boycei* by Wilson (1935) in honor of the discoverer. It differs from the species in having auricles deeply lobed, margins of fronds irregularly dissected, with obtuse teeth 1–3 mm long.

A search through literature (Broun 1938, Dole 1937, Fernald 1950, and Weatherby 1937) failed to disclose any previous or subsequent collection of this form. In late 1962 the writer was at the Gray Herbarium and in April 1963 at Yale University at which times specimens of typical *Camptosorus rhizophyllus* (L.) Link were studied. Two specimens among the collections at Yale University, from Connecticut, were found to be of this form. Surprisingly enough these had been collected 17 and 30 years prior to the form having been described and named.

The exact location of the type station had never been precisely recorded. Desiring to ascertain the present day status of the form I wrote to Mr. Boyce for first hand information. In his reply Mr. Boyce (1962) invited the author to visit him at his camp and further offered to act as guide to the station which he described as follows: "The place where we found the fern is some three miles from camp and quite close to the Canadian line, and rather hard to describe. . . ."

September 8, 1962 was the date agreed upon for visiting Mr. Boyce. On this date the author and Miss Marion L. Smith were personally guided to the colony from which the type collection had originated.

The station is located in an open woodland which has only light underbrush and is liberally strewn with large limestone boulders and outcrops. The woodlands are adjacent to a cow pasture and the cattle have a path which, unfortunately, passes very close to the colonies of this fern.

In the four colonies pointed out to us by their discoverer,



the plants in all but one colony were growing at the base of boulders or shelving outcrops and in habit were characteristically closely appressed to the rocks which here seems to afford some protection from the passing cattle. In only one colony were the plants growing on the face or top of boulders. All the plants were in luxuriantly healthy condition.

The typical form of the Walking Fern is present, but in no case is it abundant. In a single colony only were the form and typical species growing intermixed, a factor which marks forma *boycei* as an aristocrat of its clan, displaying a preference for growing in pure stands. The colonies observed are rather small, with perhaps from 3 to 7 or 8 plants only in each. The woodlands in the immediate vicinity of the station present a notable absence of other ferns as the only other species noted was *Adiantum pedatum* L.

It is gratifying to report that this interesting form is thriving at its original station. At the request of Mr. Boyce and in the interest of conservation the exact location of the station is not being divulged.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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